HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR BIRDS IF A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IS IN YOUR AREA?

Register your flock!

Registration is a legal requirement if you own 50 or more poultry, and a wise step to take if you own fewer than 50. If a notifiable disease is found in your area, Defra will advise you immediately by text and you will be better placed to help your birds FAST.

Here are some simple steps to help protect your poultry in the event of an outbreak:

- Bring all your poultry inside
- Don't move poultry or eggs off your land (movement licences are required if you are within 10km of an outbreak – contact the APHA for more information)
- Remove all outdoor feed and water stations, thereby discouraging wild birds to visit
- If you cannot bring your birds inside, cover their coop to prevent wild bird droppings

ENJOY YOUR POULTRY AND BE FLOCK WISE

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BRITISH HEN WELFARE TRUST

British Free Range Egg Producers Association BFREPA

NEW TO HEN KEEPING?

Keeping poultry is rewarding and life enriching and by following a few simple rules you will help to maintain a happy and healthy flock:

- Sourcing fully vaccinated birds from a reputable supplier gives your poultry the right start
- Adoption of ex-commercial hens will provide fully vaccinated hens

Essentials to good husbandry include:

- Commitment to daily care
- Secure accommodation
- Good hygiene
- Daytime access to fresh water and food
- Prevent wild birds and vermin stealing poultry food
- Routine health care such as regular worming and treatment for parasites

YOUR POULTRY

THEIR HEALTH

Helpful guidance on keeping your hens safe in the event of a notifiable disease, such as Avian Influenza (AI). It may never happen, but being forewarned makes you forearmed.

The information is to help you understand when there is a serious problem so you can take appropriate action. Disease amongst poultry can spread FAST and knowing what to do as a responsible poultry keeper is vital.

Find out more about keeping hens by visiting one of the websites below:

www.bhwt.org.uk
poultryclubofgreatbritain.co.uk
www.nfuonline.com/avianflu
bfrepa.co.uk

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, THE FACTS:

- There are two poultry notifiable diseases in the UK: Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease
- These diseases are most commonly carried by waterfowl – ducks, geese and other wild waterfowl
- Both diseases can be lethal to your poultry and devastating to the UK poultry industry
- If AI or Newcastle Disease is suspected, legally it must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

WHAT ACTION SHOULD YOU TAKE IF YOU SUSPECT A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE?

Contact any one of the following; they will be able to help you:

- Your local poultry-friendly vet
- APHA (a DEFRA department specialising in notifiable diseases) – 03000 200 301

HOW WILL A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE AFFECT YOUR BIRDS?

From time to time all poultry may experience the following symptoms of ill health:

- Head shaking
- Coughing
- Eye or nose discharge
- Diarrhoea
- Sneezing
- Feather loss

None of the above necessarily indicates serious illness, for example feather loss may simply result from a natural moult process. However, if you notice any of the above or your birds die, this may indicate a more serious disease and you must take action.

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